THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 6th May 1952.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras, at eleven of the clock, the Temporary Speaker (THE HON. SRI P. T. RAJAN) in the Chair.

I.—ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Sri P. T. Rajan) :—" Item I of the Agenda for to-day is ' Swearing-in of Members.' As all the hon. Members have already been sworn in[a], I now proceed to the next item on the agenda, viz., ' Election of Speaker '. The election of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker under Article 178 of the Constitution is to take place this morning. Nominations for these offices have already taken place. Under rule 13 (4) of the Madras Assembly Rules, I have first to read out to the Assembly the names of the Members who have been duly nominated for the Speakership, together with those of their proposers and seconders. They are—

Member nominated.	*Proposer.*	*Seconder.*
Sri J. Sivashanmugam Pillai.	Sri G. Latchanna.	Sri P. Thimma Reddi.
Do.	Sri Raja Sagi Suryanarayana Raju.	Sri G. Suryanarayana.
Do.	Sri R. Thangavelu.	Sri A. S. Sahajananda.
Sri S. Swayamprakasam.	Sri P. V. R. Gajapathi Raju (Raja of Vizianagaram).	Sri V. V. Ramasami.

" As more than one Member has been duly nominated, the Assembly will now proceed under sub-rules (4) to (7) of rule 13 of the Madras Assembly Rules to elect a Speaker by ballot. Four cubicles have been provided to enable hon. Members to record their votes. I have directed the Secretary to call the Members according to the order in which their names appear in the alphabetical list, and as each Member approaches his seat, he will be handed a ballot paper. After getting his ballot paper, each Member is requested to go into one of the cubicles, record his vote and after doing so, deposit his voting paper in one of the ballot boxes provided for the purpose.

" In this connexion, it has been brought to my notice that the procedure of voting may be explained in all the different languages, namely, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada. May I request the Members of the Treasury Bench to come to my rescue and explain the procedure to hon. Members in those languages. Before I call upon the Secretary to call out the names of hon. Members, to avoid suspicion that canvassing is going on in the House, hon. Members are requested to remain in their places, go to the Secretary's seat as they are called, mark their votes within the cubicles, put the ballot papers in the ballot boxes

[a] See Appendix I on page 19 infra.

and then return to their seats. They are requested to avoid talking either before or after voting so that the secrecy of the ballot may be maintained.

" I now request the Members of the Treasury Bench to explain the procedure of voting in the respective languages."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I hope, Sir, you can very well do it in Tamil yourself."

RAJA MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD :—" Sir, we all agree with the suggestion of the Hon. Leader of the House."

TEMPORARY SPEAKER :—" If the Hon. Leader of the House wants me to do it, I have no objection."

SRI V. V. RAMASAMI :—" Sir, are we to put a tick or a small cross? "

TEMPORARY SPEAKER :—" As usual, the cross mark will be adopted. There are only two candidates and there is no preferential voting."

(Temporary Speaker explained in Tamil the procedure to be adopted in voting, the Hon. Dr. R. Nagana Goud explained in Kannada, the Hon. Sri S. B. P. Pattabhirama Rao in Telugu, and the Hon. Sri K. P. Kuttikrishna Nayar in Malayalam.)

TEMPORARY SPEAKER :—" I hope the procedure of voting has been made clear to all the hon. Members of the House. Before I call upon the Secretary to call out the names of hon. Members, I may say that the election of the Deputy Speaker will be conducted by the newly elected Speaker. The procedure to be followed then will be the same as that to be followed in the case of election of the Speaker.

" This morning, the two candidates for the Speaker's Chair, namely, Sri J. Sivashanmugam Pillai and Sri S. Swayamprakasam, came and informed me that they would refrain from voting. That is a tradition on the lines of the House of Commons. With the permission of the House I congratulate both of them on creating that tradition here. (Applause.) I hope this is only a forerunner of many traditions that are to be created by hon. Members of this House irrespective of their political affiliations.

" Now, I call upon the Secretary to call out the names of hon. Members."

(The Assistant Secretary then called the first four names of the hon. Members in the alphabetical order.)

SRI P. RAMAMOORTHI :—" Sir, is a nominated Member of the House entitled to exercise his vote for the Speaker's election? I would like to have this point clarified."

TEMPORARY SPEAKER :—" I believe once a person becomes a Member of this House, he is entitled to vote. If this point had been raised earlier, I would have quoted authority."

(Voting was in progress. The Hon. the Leader of the House was seen making some representation to the Speaker.)

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TEMPORARY SPEAKER :—" It has been pointed out to me by the Hon. Leader of the House that two hon. Members who are ill have come here to take part in the election, and they may be given permission to vote from their seats even now, before their turn comes. Also it has been brought to my notice that another hon. Member finds it difficult to move about easily and that he may also be permitted to vote from his seat. The Assistant Secretary will take the ballot papers and the ballot box to them to enable them to record their votes. With your permission, I propose to show this courtesy to these three hon. Members, namely, (1) Sri K. Varadachari, (2) Sri V. Nadimuthu Pillai, and (3) Sri M. Kalyanasundaram."

(The Assistant Secretary took the ballot papers and the ballot box to these hon. Members. As the Assistant Secretary took the ballot paper and box to Sri Kalyanasundaram, the Temporary Speaker said, " Hon. Members sitting near and behind Sri Kalyanasundaram may please go a little away from him so that the secrecy of voting may be maintained. Voting by these hon. Members then took place.")

TEMPORARY SPEAKER :—" This is my ballot paper. I thought I should refrain from taking part in the election lest it should be prejudicial to my functioning as Speaker. As, however, I am advised that my voting will not in any way interfere with my functioning as Speaker, I am also taking part in the election. I wanted to refrain from voting for the reason that in case of a tie, I might have to give my casting vote. That this impression of mine was erroneous, was made clear to me by friends whom I consulted and who are, and ought to be, in a position to advise me. If there is a tie to-day, it shall be decided by casting lots. In the circumstances, I propose to exercise my vote. In so doing, I need not go into the cubicle, as I suggested to other hon. Members, because I can maintain secrecy here, and secondly, as Speaker I cannot leave the Chair. Therefore, I propose to exercise my franchise by marking the ballot paper from my seat and depositing it into the ballot box in front of me."

(After saying this, Temporary Speaker marked the ballot paper and deposited it into the box in front of him.)

TEMPORARY SPEAKER :—" Have all the hon. Members exercised their franchise? I am told by the Secretary that three hon. Members have not exercised their franchise. They are, (1) Sri S. C. C. Anthony Pillai, (2) Sri D. Dasarathan, and (3) Sri P. Thimma Reddi. We have waited sufficiently long, and I do not think that we should wait any longer. These three hon. Members for some reason or other, have not exercised their franchise.

" As voting is over, counting of the ballot papers will now commence. The Secretary and the Assistant Secretary will count the votes in the Chamber itself here and now. I nominate Messrs. K. Rajaram Naidu and P. Venkateswarlu as Tellers. They will be there to watch the interests of their respective candidates. After counting is over, I shall announce the result."

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(Votes were then counted by the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary in the presence of the Tellers, Sri K. Rajaram Naidu and Sri P. Venkateswarlu. After counting was over, the Tellers approached the Chair and presented the figures, arrived at by the counting of votes, to the Temporary Speaker.)

1 p.m. TEMPORARY SPEAKER :—" Order, order. As many as 370 hon. Members have taken part in the voting, three hundred and sixty-eight votes were valid votes and two votes were invalid. I shall now announce the figures of voting. The following are the figures supplied to me by the Tellers nominated by me :—

Sri J. Sivashanmugam Pillai—206 (loud applause).

Sri S. Swayamprakasam—162."

(At this stage, some persons in the Visitors' Galleries clapped their hands.)

TEMPORARY SPEAKER :—" Order, order. Those who are in the Visitors' Galleries should not take part in the proceedings or clap their hands. I now declare that Mr. J. Sivashanmugam Pillai has been duly elected Speaker of this Assembly. (Applause.)

" Now, the only thing that remains for me to do is to congratulate Sri Sivashanmugam Pillai on his success and before I call upon the Hon. the Leader of the House and Mr. Nagi Reddi, Leader of the Communist Party, to conduct Mr. Sivashanmugam Pillai to the Chair, I would like to inform the House—rather I would like to sugget to hon. Members of the House that the congratulatory speeches be taken up tomorrow, because the election of the Deputy Speaker will have to take place to-day and at 5 p.m. His Excellency the Governor is addressing both the Houses of the Legislature. So, if my suggestion is acceptable to hon. Members of the House, the speeches may be reserved for tomorrow.

" One thing more. When the Hon. the Speaker goes to occupy the Chair, hon. Members of the House will stand up and resume their seats only after the Speaker has taken his seat. Now, I would call upon the Hon. the Leader of the House and Sri Nagi Reddi to conduct Sri J. Sivashanmugam Pillai to the Chair."

(Then the Hon. the Leader of the House and Sri T. Nagi Reddi conducted Sri J. Sivashanmugam Pillai to the Chair. As the Temporary Speaker was vacating the Chair, he shook hands with Mr. Sivashanmugam Pillai and wished him the best of luck. Before taking his seat, Sri J. Sivashanmugam Pillai said, ' I am thankful to hon. Members for electing me a second time as Speaker of this Assembly ' and took his seat amidst cheers. He then said :—

It is now 1-20 p.m. For the Speaker's election, we took two hours and more. I do not think we will be able to finish the work regarding election of the Deputy Speaker before lunch time. So, we will take up the election of Deputy Speaker after lunch. The House will now rise and meet again at 2-30 p.m.)

The House then rose for lunch.